

# Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

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**Disclaimer:**  
Many articles in this newsletter are submitted by various entities. The views and opinions contained within may or may not be those of Iowa Community Empowerment.

## First Years First Announcement of Awards

First Years First is pleased to announce the six grant recipients for the funding cycle October 1, 2009- September 30, 2011. First Years First received 25 applications, with a total funding request of \$1,153,630 and a private sector match of \$850,996. These total matching funds reflect 74% of requested funds, exceeding the required 40% private sector match, which is almost \$390,000 over the required match amount. ***This higher than anticipated private sector match overwhelmingly demonstrates a strong interest by local business and philanthropic organizations to support quality, community-based early childhood projects.***

The innovative and quality applications made for a highly competitive grant cycle, especially given that First Years First had only \$200,000 available for grant funds. After two rounds of grant reviews, the top six applications awarded funding are:

### 1. Dubuque County Empowerment - \$37,200 with 67% matching funds

**Purpose:** To increase awareness of parents and caregivers on the importance of early learning and how to encourage learning activities for children in care. Increase involvement and investment in early learning by area businesses and the community for a sustainable system of quality support for all families in need.

**Key Strategies:**

- Develop a Born Learning campaign for Dubuque County in conjunction with a coordinated message for youth already in place.
- Disseminate Born Learning materials to parents and caregivers at community events, early learning workshops, and strategic community locations for targeted populations.
- Offer early learning workshops in community locations by trained "trusted messengers" to provider Born Learning directly to parents and caregivers.
- Plan and hold a business leader symposium to promote Born Learning and provide education about investing in early childhood and its link to economic development.

### 2. Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Inc - \$75,000 with 75% matching funds

**Purpose:** To more closely align curriculum standards between private and public child care providers by extending Quality Early Childhood Environments (QECE) programming to include professional development in curriculum and assessment.

**Key Strategies:**

- Bring customized Creative Curriculum training to Cedar Rapids to increase the number of early care and education programs using an evidence-based curriculum.
- Purchase technology and provide financial assistance with the annual on-line Creative Curriculum subscription fee to support child care providers use of computer-based child assessment tracking system.
- Provide TA and networking support to assist participating centers to implement and use the available resources with the on-line assessment.

*Continued on page 2...*



## Cover Story Continued...

### **3. Child Abuse Prevention Services - \$18,982 with 65% matching funds**

*Purpose:* Maintain employment of a full-time, bilingual Child Development Specialist, who is a certified parent educator with the Parents as Teachers National Center and will utilize this curriculum during home visits with Hispanic women with young children.

*Key Strategies:*

- Parent support through home visitation.
- Early intervention for children who have or are at-risk for developmental delays.
- Linkages to informal and formal support.

### **4. Maharishi Preschool - \$32,600 with 67% matching funds**

*Purpose:* To expose young children to nature-based learning and to share knowledge of outdoor education with other preschools, child care centers, and parents throughout Iowa.

*Key Strategies:*

- Create southeastern Iowa's first certified Nature Explore Classroom - a working model and training facility for early childhood outdoor education
- Contribute nature-based learning concepts to the local AIM Empowerment "Getting Ready for Kindergarten" calendar project.
- Offer professional development opportunities for home providers.
- Maharishi Preschool will work to improve its QRS rating from a 2 to 3.

### **5. Childcare Resource and Referral of Marion County - \$15,000 with 94% matching funds**

*Purpose:* To improve the education levels of our early childhood workforce

*Key Strategies:*

- Build community and private partnerships within Mahaska and Marion counties.
- Create a plan that benefits all partners.
- Provide a high quality professional development opportunity for area providers.
- Make the opportunity accessible for providers.
- Assist providers in achieving professional and program quality goals.

### **6. Southwest Iowa Families, Inc - Positive Family - \$21,218 with 67% matching funds**

*Purpose:* To provide intensive, in-home parent support for overburdened and at risk families in order to increase parenting competence, provide safe, secure and nurturing environments for children and to enhance child development within the family setting.

*Key Strategies:*

- Begin services prenatally.
- Provide intensive, in-home family support and parenting education to targeted families.
- Provide screening and referrals for child developmental delays.

**The variety of matching sources for these grantees include:** Rockwell Collins, Upper Iowa University, Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation, TallyHo Travel, Pella Rolscreen Foundation, Vermeer Charitable Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, Every Child/Every Promise, Honkamp Krueger & Company, P.C., and local cash donations from project-specific community fundraisers.

First Years First plans to provide progress updates and best practice examples from this first round of grant recipients. The statewide evaluation intersecting all of these projects will look at how to build and maintain local private sector partnerships for early childhood. We look forward to learning and sharing these lessons learned in the months and years ahead.

For questions or comments, contact Sonni Vierling, First Years First Coordinator, Office of Empowerment at [sonni.vierling@iowa.gov](mailto:sonni.vierling@iowa.gov).

To add your CEA web site to this list, send a note to [debra.scrowther@iowa.gov](mailto:debra.scrowther@iowa.gov).

**Adair County**  
[www.adairempowerment.org](http://www.adairempowerment.org)  
**Audubon, Carroll, Greene, Guthrie**  
[www.partnerships4families.org/](http://www.partnerships4families.org/)  
**Benton County**  
[www.bcempowerment.com](http://www.bcempowerment.com)  
**Black Hawk**  
[www.cedarvalleyspromise.org](http://www.cedarvalleyspromise.org)  
**Boone**  
<http://booneempowerment.com/>  
**Bremer, Butler, Franklin, Grundy**  
[www.together4families.org](http://www.together4families.org)  
**Buchanan Delaware Fayette**  
[www.bdfempowerment.org](http://www.bdfempowerment.org)  
**Buena Vista, Crawford, Sac**  
[www.BVCSEmpowerment.com](http://www.BVCSEmpowerment.com)  
**Cass Mils Montgomery** [www.boost4families.org](http://www.boost4families.org)  
**Cedar** [www.empowercedarco.org](http://www.empowercedarco.org)  
**Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth**  
[www.empowermentforthechildren.org](http://www.empowermentforthechildren.org)  
**Cherokee, Lyon, Plymouth, Sioux**  
[www.nwiowa.org/](http://www.nwiowa.org/)  
**Clinton, Jackson** [www.cj-empowerment.com](http://www.cj-empowerment.com)  
**Dallas**  
[www.co.dallas.ia.us/Comm\\_Services/Empowerment.asp](http://www.co.dallas.ia.us/Comm_Services/Empowerment.asp)  
**Des Moines/Louisia**  
[www.caringcommunityempowerment.org](http://www.caringcommunityempowerment.org)  
**Dubuque**  
[www.empowerdubuque.org](http://www.empowerdubuque.org)  
**Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell**  
[www.fmcempowerment.com](http://www.fmcempowerment.com)  
**Fremont, Page**  
[www.co.page.ia.us/offices/empowerment/index.htm](http://www.co.page.ia.us/offices/empowerment/index.htm)  
**HAWC** [www.HAWC-Iowa.com](http://www.HAWC-Iowa.com)  
**Hardin** [www.empowerhardin.com/](http://www.empowerhardin.com/)  
**Henry** [www.healthyhenrycounty.org](http://www.healthyhenrycounty.org)  
**Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright**  
[www.buildingfamilies.net](http://www.buildingfamilies.net)  
**Jasper** <http://www.jaspercountyempowerment.org/>  
**Johnson**  
<http://www.jcempowerment.org>  
**Lee, VanBuren**  
[www.childrenfirstempowerment.org](http://www.childrenfirstempowerment.org)  
**Linn**  
[www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org](http://www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org)  
**Madison** [www.madisoncountyhelp.org](http://www.madisoncountyhelp.org)  
**Mahaska, Wapello**  
[www.mahaskawapelloempowerment.org](http://www.mahaskawapelloempowerment.org)  
**Marshall** [www.youthandviolence.org](http://www.youthandviolence.org)  
**Muscatine**  
[www.muscatineempowerment.org](http://www.muscatineempowerment.org)  
**Palo Alto, Kossuth**  
[www.pakempowerment.com](http://www.pakempowerment.com)  
**Pocahontas, Calhoun and Webster**  
[www.linking-families.com](http://www.linking-families.com)  
**Polk** [www.hspa.org](http://www.hspa.org)  
**Pottawattamie**  
[www.promisepartners.info](http://www.promisepartners.info)  
**Scott**  
[www.scottcountyempowerment.org](http://www.scottcountyempowerment.org)  
**Story** [www.storycountyfamily.org](http://www.storycountyfamily.org)  
**Tama**  
[www.tamacounty.org/empowerment](http://www.tamacounty.org/empowerment)  
**Warren**  
[www.warrenempowerment.org](http://www.warrenempowerment.org)  
**Washington**  
[www.washingtoncountyempowerment.org](http://www.washingtoncountyempowerment.org)  
**Woodbury** [www.siouxlandship.org](http://www.siouxlandship.org)

## Update July - September 2009 Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- ECI Professional Development component group – July 1 & Sept 24
- PBS Discussion – July 6
- ECI Co-chairs – July 7 & August 6
- Empowerment Presentation to Council on Human Services – July 8
- ECI Regional Meeting, Carroll – July 9
- First Years First Web Site Development meeting – July 9
- Iowa Empowerment Board meeting, Des Moines – July 10
- HOPES meeting – July 13
- ARRA Funds Planning Workgroup meeting – July 14 & August 12
- Community Empowerment Coordinators Quarterly TA meeting – July 15
- ECI Professional Development Steering Committee – July 16, Aug 20, Sept 2
- Smart Start NTAC conference call on State TA to Community-based Partnerships – July 23
- BUILD interview on Sustainability – July 27
- Contract negotiation, DMACC – July 28
- Barriers to Pre-natal Care – August 4
- Lean Design Team Follow up Meeting – August 5
- Child Care Workforce Study prep meeting – August 13
- Empowerment 101/Lean Update with legislator & staff – Aug 14, Sept 8, 14, 16
- First Years First Grant Reviews – August 14, 18, 20, 25, 26 & 27
- Lean State Structure workgroup – August 17
- Lean Legislation workgroup – August 19
- ECI Congress Planning Leadership workgroup – August 20
- Fiscal Clarification meeting with Department of Education – August 21
- Lean Local Structure workgroup – August 24 & Sept 3, 30
- Lean State Structure small group work – August 26 & Sept 30
- Lean Levels of Excellence workgroup – August 26 & Sept 30
- ECI Congress Planning – August 28
- Lean State Structure Workgroup – Coordinating Office – September 1
- Lean Update with State Dept Directors – September 1 & 28
- State Child Care Advisory Council – September 2 & 10
- TEACH Advisory Committee – September 2
- ECAC Committee – Sept 3
- Lean Marketing Workgroup meeting – Sept 3, 29, 30
- ECI Public Engagement workgroup – Sept 3
- ECI Council – Sept 8
- Meeting with legal counsel, merging and carry forward – Sept 8
- Professional Development Leadership committee – Sept 9
- ECI State Agency Liaison Team – Sept 10
- Iowa Empowerment Board meeting – Sept 11
- Lean, Update Governor's Office – Sept 14
- ECI Governance workgroup – Sept 15
- Lean Regional Events – Iowa City, Sept 15; Winterset, Sept 17
- NGA EC Advisory Councils meeting, DC – Sept 16-18
- QRS Oversight – Sept 22
- Empowerment Contacts/Coordinators TA meeting – Sept 23
- ECI Resources & Funding workgroup – Sept 24
- HOPES coordination meeting – Sept 29
- Lean Team meeting – Sept 30

## Upcoming Events Calendar at a Glance

### Iowa Empowerment Board Meeting

November 13, 2009  
Iowa Workforce Center  
Des Moines

### Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meeting

December 9, 2009  
Rising Sun Church of Christ  
Pleasant Hill

### ECI Council (formerly ECI Stakeholders)

December 8, 2009  
West Des Moines Learning Resource  
Center  
West Des Moines  
[www.earlychildhoodiowa.org](http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org)

## Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- North Central Regional Coordinators Meeting, Ames – July 2
- Wayne County board meeting – July 9
- Marion County TA with board representatives, Knoxville – July 17
- Cass, Mills, Montgomery board subcommittee to discuss indicators – July 20
- Tama County TA on the Lean process – July 22
- Hardin County TA with coordinator, Iowa Falls – July 22
- Lakes TA on budget, conference call – July 28
- Ringgold County TA regarding RFP, conference call – July 28
- Hardin County board training, Empowerment 101 & board development – July 28
- Ringgold County board meeting – August 5
- Black Hawk County board meeting – August 11
- SW Iowa Coordinators meeting, Atlantic – August 12
- Buchanan, Delaware, Fayette board meeting – August 18
- Hardin County board meeting – August 18
- Adair County Provider Reception/meeting- August 26
- Washington County, Henry County joint board meeting – August 27
- Black Hawk RBA training, Waterloo – August 28
- Hardin County TA with Coordinator regarding annual report – August 31
- Open Meetings/Open Records Training – ICN – September 2
- Results-based Accountability training, Iowa Falls – Sept 3

## SAVE -THE - DATES!

## System Building Update



Early Childhood Iowa Congress: **February 10-11, 2009 (Airport Holiday Inn)**  
**Early Care, Health, & Education Day on the Hill:** February 12, 2009 (State Capitol)

The Day on the Hill will be one of the most visible opportunities for advocates to make their case for investing in Iowa's young children. The focus of the 2010 Day on the hill will be on family stories. Rather than having exhibit tables, programs/organizations will have the opportunity to submit a family story. Stay tuned for more details. Registration materials and event details will be available soon.

To view the Advocacy Training and Day on the Hill save-the-dates, visit the *Advocacy* page of the ECI Web site at:

<http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/advocacy/index.html>.

For more details about ECI Congress, visit:

[http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/ECI\\_Congress/index.html](http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/ECI_Congress/index.html).



The Public Engagement component group partnered with Every Child Matters (Step up for Kids Day) and Child Care Resource & Referral to hold five Advocacy Regional Trainings in October. At each event, there was an Advocacy 101 training followed by a Step up for Kids event overview & media press event.

The purpose of these trainings was to prepare and motivate individuals for the February ECI Day on the Hill. Events were held in Iowa City, Waterloo, Urbandale, Council Bluffs, and Fort Dodge. In addition to the training, participants received a bright blue t-shirt with the message to invest in kids and press pictures were taken in their shirts. In all about 130 individuals attended and are more prepared to meet their legislators in February!

## LOCAL NEWS:

*Submitted by  
Warren County Empowerment and  
the Family Support Collaborative  
Debra Schrader, Empowerment  
Director*

### Warren County Family Support Collaborative

This past year a group of family support programs in Warren County took a new approach to serving families – collaboration, instead of competition.

Encouraged by their local Empowerment board, several programs partnered together to sponsor two group activities for families this spring. The first activity, a carnival style event called Cabin Fever, was held in March and drew 80 participants from the community.

The collaboration in Warren County currently includes Lutheran Services in Iowa's New Parent program through Healthy Families America, a Parents and Teacher program that has been led by Prevention Concepts and now by Partners in Family Development, Family Rewards, Drake University Head Start and Iowa State University Extension Food and Nutrition.

Established several years ago, the family support collaborative has been meeting on a quarterly basis to share information about programs, build relationships and promote quality. Since it can often be hard to get enough families to attend an event, as well as find staff time to plan and manage it, this year the programs decided to pool their efforts.

"When you plan a group event and only draw a few people, it can be very disappointing," said Nancy Krause, director of early childhood services for Lutheran Services in Iowa. "But by combining the efforts of four or five programs together, we can draw more families and also share resources of time and materials, knowing that we have the same results and goals in mind."

Beyond providing a successful group component, this family support collaborative also promotes better results for families.

"It has been a great partnership and opportunity to build relationships," Krause said. "As we learn to work together across programs and gain insight into the services we each offer, we are able to look at families and ask 'Are they good for our program or should they be in another program?' We want to keep building our relationships so we can do even better with matching families with the right program."

Deb Schrader of Warren County Empowerment said enhancing services is the key goal. The collaboration is important not only to the Empowerment Board, but for all funders involved, she said.

"It helps everyone have a better understanding of what types of family support services are offered locally, so we don't duplicate the current delivery system but enhance it," she said. "By serving families appropriately, we can make sure they get the service that best fits their specific needs."

Schrader hopes that the collaboration can continue to accomplish several goals in the future.

"We hope to reduce or eliminate duplication and enhance the coordination efforts among all family support programs in our county," she said. "We also want to provide a networking opportunity for agencies, and ultimately, we want to move all family support programs to a higher level of quality."





## Iowa Empowerment Board News

On July 10, 2009 the Iowa Empowerment Board (IEB) met at the Iowa Workforce Center in Des Moines for their regularly scheduled meeting. After the approval of past minutes and the acceptance of the meeting's agenda, Janet Gartin, Family Support Coordinator, presented the revised family support tool, Tool FF. The board approved the guidance which includes changes for the FY2010 funding year. Michael Tramontina, Director of Economic Development shared a presentation on Iowa's economy. In response, the board had a discussion of its impacts on Iowa's families. Updates were then provided on the budgeting and contracting process for FY2010, the activities of First Years First, Family Support, the work of the Fiscal Accountability Workgroup, and progress of the economic stimulus funds provided to Community Empowerment by legislation to assist families with infant and toddler child care. The last agenda item was a presentation by Bonnie Mikelson and Lisa D'Aunno from the University of Iowa regarding an Empowerment funded program they developed to support Family Support Supervisors.

On Friday, September 11, 2009 the Iowa Empowerment Board (IEB) met at the Iowa Workforce Center in Des Moines for their regularly scheduled meeting. After the approval of past minutes and the acceptance of the meeting's agenda, Sonni Vierling, First Years First (FYF) Coordinator, and Matt Garvey, member of the FYF committee and Director of the Wellmark Foundation summarized the work of the committee and presented funding recommendations to the IEB. The outcome of the board's decision is the topic of the cover article in this edition of the Community Empowerment newsletter (October 2009).

Next, the IEB discussed the impacts of the delayed first quarter payments to local boards, especially in light of the 20% carry forward policy established in legislation last year. Teresa Hay McMahon, Department of Management provided an overview of the progress of the Community Empowerment Lean Design event. As follow up to that discussion, Shanell Wagler and Janet Gartin presented a recommendation that the IEB suspend the Redesignation process for local boards for the fall of 2010. This policy change was adopted by the IEB. They also presented a letter submitted by the Henry County and Washington County boards requesting a boundary change. After discussion, the IEB accepted the letter of intent to merge these Community Empowerment Areas. Finally, Jeff Anderson and Tami Foley provided an update regarding the economic stimulus funds to support families with infants and toddlers.

To access Iowa Empowerment Board meeting minutes, visit [http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/iowa\\_board/b\\_minutes.html](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/iowa_board/b_minutes.html), or contact Debra Scrowther, [debra.scrowther@iowa.gov](mailto:debra.scrowther@iowa.gov).

*The next meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board will be November 13, 2009 at the Iowa Workforce Center, 430 East Grand in Des Moines.*

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## Nominations Sought For Iowa Empowerment Board

Responsibilities of an IEB member can be found on the Empowerment web site,

[http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/Common/pdf/ieb\\_responsibilities.pdf](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/Common/pdf/ieb_responsibilities.pdf)

The Iowa Empowerment Board consists of sixteen citizen members, six state agency directors, and six members of the general assembly. The state Empowerment Board currently is seeking candidates for citizen members. Citizen members are appointed by Governor Chester J. Culver and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. Interested candidates must complete a gubernatorial appointment resume in addition to seeking a letter of recommendation from their local empowerment board. The gubernatorial appointment resume can be found at <http://openup.iowa.gov/boards/>.

Citizen member selections are reflective of the state's congressional districts to ensure representation from across the state. An equally important criterion is that appointments reflect the ethnic, cultural, social, and economic diversity of our state. We encourage candidates from diverse populations to apply.



## ***Children's Champion 2009 Award Recipient***

The Iowa AEYC Children's Champion Award is given annually by the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children to a person who is making a significant contribution on the state level to improve the quality of care and education for young children. The person can be any professional, legislator, volunteer, or citizen who has demonstrated outstanding service or achievement to benefit Iowa's young children.

### **Thoughts shared by Iowa AEYC president-elect, Susan Gray**

Shanell Wagler has been a special friend to young children and their families in Iowa for more than a decade. Working through the Iowa Department of Management, Shanell has been the Facilitator for Community Empowerment since 2004. She has worked as an advocate not only for children and their families, programs and professionals, but also for the needs of local communities across the state. She is often called upon by state officials, Legislators, the business community, and the citizens of Iowa, and she speaks for the need for investment in early childhood education services. Shanell has been a key leader in the Early Childhood Iowa system building efforts, providing intuitive thinking and a warm friendly smile at leadership tables. As a coalition builder and a collaborator, Iowa AEYC appreciates the ability to call on her partnership as we promote professional development for our members. Shanell is a lifelong Iowan and enjoys spending time with her husband and two children.

A Children's Champion is someone who makes a difference. Iowa AEYC is proud to recognize Shanell Wagler as a friend of Iowa AEYC who makes a difference every day for Iowa's young children and our field.



Shanell Wagler (left) with Susan Gray



Submitted by Kristi Judkins,  
Business Service Representative  
Iowa Workforce Development

## **FREE Technology Training**

**The state and Microsoft Corp. have teamed up to offer 5,700 vouchers for free technology training and Microsoft certification.**

The "Microsoft Elevate America" program, presented by Iowa Workforce Development and Microsoft, is designed to help Iowans meet the demands of the 21st-century economy and is part of a nationwide initiative that will offer 1 million vouchers for Microsoft e-Learning courses and select Microsoft certification exams at little to no cost to recipients. Iowa's vouchers will be handed out over the next 90 days.

For more information, visit <http://www.iowaworkforce.org/elevateamerica/>.

# **Iowa AEYC/T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA**

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## **Recruiting CDA advisors** for Iowa's new professional development consultation project...

*Submitted by Stacie Steveson, CDA Coordinator, Iowa AEYC*

What do you know about the Iowa Professional Development Consultation (IPDC) project? Did you know that there are regional professional development coordinators to help our early childhood workforce acquire their CDA credentials and early childhood degrees?

We frequently are asked questions about what the CDA is, and the process to receive a CDA credential. The CDA credential is nationally recognized and sought after by many early childhood practitioners, especially with the increase of education in many of the standards in this industry (i.e., Head Start and Pre-K programs). Candidates are required to obtain 120 clock hours of training as well as document evidence of her or his competence in the early care and education field. One (of five) critical components of that documentation is an observation visit from an Advisor.

The Advisor's role is to observe the candidate in their setting, working as the lead teacher in that classroom or home. The Advisor observes and records the candidate's performance on all Functional Areas of the CDA. The purpose of this formal observation is so there is evidence of the candidate's actual hands-on knowledge and skills with working with children. Typically, this takes about 3 hours for the Advisor to observe all necessary areas. At times, the Advisor may need to interview the candidate after the observation.

The Council for Professional Recognition (entity which issues the credential) operates a national Advisor registry to help candidates locate a qualified professional. To qualify, they must meet both education and experience requirements or submit a waiver expressing why they should be considered. Iowa has created a "registry" that we use with the IPDC project to help candidates find advisors from across the state. Currently, you must be first accepted to the national registry through the Council and attend an Advisor training session to be added to the Iowa registry. Eligible Advisors are reimbursed for costs associated with the observation visit. We are seeking additional people to fulfill this need.

Have you considered becoming an Advisor for the new professional development consultation project? Do you know someone who would qualify in this role? If so, please have him/her check into this further by visiting the Council's website ([www.cdacouncil.org](http://www.cdacouncil.org)) or the Iowa AEYC website ([www.iowaaeyc.org](http://www.iowaaeyc.org)).

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*"In the fiscal year that just ended, our participation rose and our outcomes were better than ever."*

## **T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA – Growing Stronger Every Day**

In tough economic times, sometimes programs suffer and enthusiasm drops for an initiative or project. Not so for the T.E.A.C.H. program! In the fiscal year that just ended, our participation rose and our outcomes were better than ever.

T.E.A.C.H. is the program that assists you as a registered child development home provider, or a director, teacher or assistant teacher in regulated preschool or child care center to earn college credits towards degrees in early childhood education, CDA credentials, and early childhood endorsements for teaching licenses. Together, you, your program, and T.E.A.C.H. (with the assistance of our funding partners) invest in your formal education. Often your program is working on the Quality Preschool Program Standards, NAEYC accreditation, Head Start standards, or the Quality Rating System, and your education supports this effort. It's also good for



the children you care for, and provides you with the professional development for your own career journey!

There are four components of every T.E.A.C.H. investment: **Scholarship, Education, Compensation, Commitment.**

**Scholarships** are what most people think of when considering T.E.A.C.H. Our scholarships help support tuition, book costs, travel/Internet stipends, release (substitute) time, compensation increases, and more. In 2008-09, **540** providers/teachers/directors from across the state had a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship. This brings the total of those assisted by T.E.A.C.H. since 2003 to just under 1000 early care and education practitioners. They were employed in 354 different child care/preschool programs. Of these, 142 were working to achieve their CDA credentials, 342 completing associate degree coursework, and 56 attaining bachelors' degrees or early childhood endorsements.

***What successes did the participants have?***

- These participants completed **4037 college credits**.
- Those attending a community college averaged **13.6 credits** during the year, and those attending a four year college completed **18.7 credits** this year.
- Grade point averages of those on T.E.A.C.H. Iowa associate contracts averaged **3.5 out of 4.0**.
- **35** completed their requirements and graduated from college.

T.E.A.C.H. only supports formal, higher **education** at the college of your choice in Iowa. In 2008-09, our participants attended **25** different colleges throughout the state.

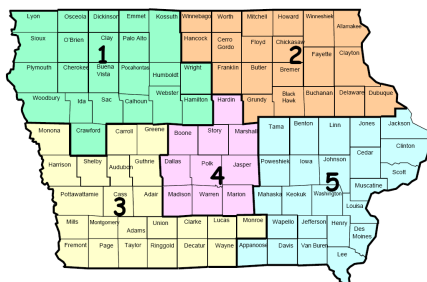
**Compensation** increases for those in our field is a critical need. In 2008-09, those who completed at least one T.E.A.C.H. contract saw a **wage increase averaging 7%**. This does not include T.E.A.C.H. bonuses of \$200 - 800 for those who were eligible.

In our field, turnover has been a problem. Children need consistent caregivers. In our field, turnover is often 30-40% per year, at a cost to a program of \$2500 on average, every time a staff member leaves. Over **95%** of those who completed a T.E.A.C.H. contract in 2008-09 fulfilled their **commitment** to stay in their current early care and education facility.

One hundred percent of those participating in the program this year and returned their evaluation forms to us said they would recommend this program to others. How about **YOU**? Want more information? Call a T.E.A.C.H. counselor for more details – (515) 331-8000 or (800) 469-2392 or visit our website at [www.iowaaec.org](http://www.iowaaec.org).

# Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral

Submitted by, Cathy Wheatcraft  
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<http://www.iowaccrr.org/>

## Central Iowa Latino Provider Outreach

Child Care Resource & Referral of Central Iowa in partnership with Polk County Empowerment have offered services to the Latino child care providers in Polk County since 2004 on a limited basis. After trying a variety of outreach methods, the decision was made to hire a full time bilingual Latino Parent and Provider Specialist with a Human Service background to assist all CCR&R staff in service delivery to Latino providers. The position is funded through Polk County Empowerment and DHS to allow for region wide service delivery. Maria Gonzalez, Latino Parent and Provider Specialist joined the CCR&R team in July 2008.

As a result of this model of service delivery, CCR&R of Central Iowa has experienced unprecedented success in reaching Latino providers in FY 2009. Region wide, the number of Latino child care homes has nearly doubled since the end of FY 08. Eighty two percent or 75 of the 92 Latino home child care providers in Polk County identified on the CCR&R database are registered Child Development Home providers. Overall in Polk County, only 54% of the 1634 home providers are registered Child Development Home providers.

FY 09 Polk County highlights include:

- 140 hours of training in Spanish were offered; a 79% increase over FY 08.
- 539 Latino providers (duplicated count) attended training
- 123 Latino providers (unduplicated count) participated in training. Trainings included: Information Meetings to CCR&R services, Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter training, First Aide and CPR, Contracts and Policies, What do You Do With the Mad That you Feel, Physical Activities, two ChildNet series and one Program of Infant Toddler Care (PITC) series.
- Beginning in January 2009, monthly Latino provider meetings were held offering opportunities for networking and further training.
- Interpretation was provided on 78 on-site consultations with a Child Care Home Consultant.
- One on one assistance in filling out Child Development Home registration forms was provided.

In Marshall County, with the assistance of bilingual Karin Brunk, Provider Service CCR&R staff member, two trainings including an introduction to CCR&R services, were offered with interpretation. Home visits were completed with interpretation. Marshall County CCR&R is working with the New Iowans Center through Workforce Development to explore ways to provide interpretation and translation to enable Latino child care providers to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

In Dallas County, Maria Gonzalez and CCR&R of Dallas County staff have begun meeting with a Latino outreach program through ISU Extension and the Networkers, an association of social service programs in Perry focused on service delivery to the Latino population.

FY 2010 Latino outreach goals include increasing services available to Latino child care providers. The FY 2010 Latino Training Plan in Polk County includes additional offerings in Positive Behavior Supports, Business Basics and Ages and Stages. CCR&R is working toward developing a monthly Latino Child Care Provider association in Perry in FY 2010. CCR&R staff are working with community partners to reduce barriers to Latino Child Development Home providers who want to become ChildNet certified and are interested in participating in Iowa's Quality Rating System.



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## A Day in the Life of HOPES

On a March morning in Linda Boldon's Waterloo apartment, laughter and sunlight radiate a new kind of hope. Her six-week-old baby Neal is all sleepy happiness, as Linda talks with staff from LSI's HOPES early childhood program about how far her family has come and the extraordinary strength it took to get them here.

In 2005, Linda had hit bottom. The wrong kind of friends and some unhealthy choices had led her to two years in prison. DHS awarded temporary custody of her son Louis, now 9, to an aunt. She knew her life had to change.

When Linda finished her sentence, she took steps to get clean and get her son back. She distanced herself from past friends, got involved with community programs and supports, and early on in her pregnancy with Neal, she signed up for HOPES, a program she had used before with Louis.

Linda and her LSI caseworker Megan started meeting weekly to discuss everything from parenting skills to financial paperwork to Linda's anxiety during a tough pregnancy. When a fire damaged Linda's apartment, it was Megan who helped her find emergency food and shelter assistance.

"I never had anyone to support me like this," she said. "Usually, people told me 'forget it, give up.' Not Megan." That support has helped Linda put past troubles behind her and put her two sons first.

"Linda's whole attitude and the way she's embraced this program – that's what we're all about," said Tamika, LSI program supervisor. "We educate families and help support them in parenting, teaching them that parents are their child's first teacher."

In February, Linda watched Louis stand on stage for his school play and give speeches by George Washington Carver and Martin Luther King Jr. "You should have seen me crying," she said. "I kept saying 'That's my son.' I was so happy."

A third-grade boy in his time to shine. A mom with new tears to cry, not from troubles, but from pride.



# Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI)



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**Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI)** maintains a list of products that have a warning or have been recalled in the last six months. The postings listed on the HCCI website are updated weekly.

You can find information on recalled products on the Consumer Product Safety Commission web site: <http://www.cpsc.gov> or on the Food and Drug Administration website: <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>.

[Sign Up for Email Announcements, https://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx](https://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx) ([Español](#))

Get free recall and safety news by email as part of CPSC's "Drive for 1 Million" campaign.

To view recalled product information, first select a product category from the following list.

- [Beds, Cribs, and Bedding](#) 1 new item
- [Child Clothing, Shoes, and Accessories](#) 2 new items
- [Equipment](#) no new items
- Food, Drug, Medicine hazards: <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html> food related recall/hazard warnings continue to be published. An advisory on child face paints was published May 12<sup>th</sup>
- [Furniture Related to Child Care and Early Education](#) no new items
- [Infant related products](#) no new items
- [Toys and Play Related Items](#) 3 new times
- **HALLOWEEN safety:**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtml93/93012.html>

**H1N1 Influenza:** You will find updated information about H1N1 influenza on the Iowa Department of Public Health webpage: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1>. The webpage contains information for child care businesses, schools, health care providers and the general public. Because of the type of business you conduct, as a child care business, you are potentially at greater risk of coming in contact with the flu virus. It is important that you get your **seasonal FLU SHOT NOW**. And when the H1N1 influenza becomes available in your community **GET YOUR H1N1 FLU SHOT!**

We have received questions from parents about activities to conduct with ill children while the parent and child are home. Iowa State University Extension has ample information **about child developmental** needs and appropriate child activities at their website: <http://cyfernet.ces.ncsu.edu/nbcc/index.php?mode=b&c=109>

